

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLEY.

0883L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, on February 10, 1954, Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan introduced
3 a bill in the United States Congress to amend the Pledge of Allegiance by adding the words,
4 "under God," to the text of the pledge; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, February 10, 1954, was chosen as the date to introduce the bill by Senator
6 Ferguson because it was the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal Joseph
7 Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and tortured by Communists for his sermons
8 exposing the goal of Communism to eradicate all religion; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, speeches were delivered in Congress by members of both political parties,
11 honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and emphasizing the threat posed to America by Communism;
12 and

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14 **WHEREAS**, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson commented, "I believe this
15 modification of the pledge is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental
16 differences between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in God," furthering
17 that with, "Our nation is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first and most
18 important reason for the existence of our Government is to protect the God-given rights of our
19 citizens. Spiritual values are every bit as important to the defense and safety of our nation as are
20 military and economic values."; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the vote to add "under God" to the United States Pledge of Allegiance was
23 a unanimous vote; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower became convinced
26 that adding the words, "under God," to the United States Pledge of Allegiance would be the right
27 thing to do after hearing Reverend George Docherty preach that the phrase, "nation under God"
28 was first used in the Gettysburg Address and were appropriate to be added to the United States
29 Pledge of Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief in God"; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the first time the United States Pledge of Allegiance was recited was on
32 Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Missouri General Assembly to recognize and honor
35 such an important date which strengthens the ties of history that bind us to our Christian heritage:

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37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
38 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
39 concurring therein, hereby recognize February 10, 1954, as the anniversary of the addition of the
40 words, "under God," to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

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42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
43 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for members
44 of the Missouri Capitol Press Corps.

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